

DOCKET SECTION

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 1997)

Docket No. R97-1

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE MOTION
TO HAVE THE PRESIDING OFFICER TAKE OFFICIAL NOTICE
OF FINANCIAL AND OPERATING STATEMENTS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE
FROM AP1, PFY 1996 - AP5, PFY 1998; AND THE
1997 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POSTAL SERVICE
(MARCH 12, 1998)

The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) moves that the Commission take official notice, under Commission Rule 31 (39 C.F.R. §3001.31), parts (d) and (j), of 31 public documents filed by the Postal Service consequent to its duty to file periodic accounting period reports, as specified in Rules 101 and 102(c)(2), 39 C.F.R. §3001.101 and 3001.102(c)(2), respectively. The 31 reports consist of "Financial and Operating Statements" filed by the Postal Service for each accounting period from AP1, PFY 1996 through (and including) AP 5, PFY 1998. In addition, OCA moves that the Commission take official notice of the 1997 Annual Report of the United States Postal Service filed pursuant to Rule 102.

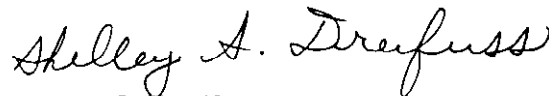
The object of this motion is that the Commission treat these public documents as evidence, which can be relied upon in reaching a recommended decision under 39 U.S.C. §3624. Part (d) of Commission Rule 31 plainly contemplates that public

documents may be received into evidence.¹ These subject documents are long known by all regular participants in postal ratemaking proceedings -- the statements have been filed each accounting period for the last 21 years, beginning with AP1, PFY 1977. Annual Reports of the Postal Service have been published for an even greater length of time -- even before postal reorganization -- when the Postal Service was still the Post Office Department.

Besides their qualification as evidence under part (d) of Rule 31, both the "Financial and Operating Statements" and the 1997 Annual Report are fit candidates for evidentiary status under part (j) of the Rule as "matter peculiarly within the general knowledge of the Commission as an expert body."

OCA intends to utilize information contained in the cited reports in formulating arguments in its initial brief. Wherefore, OCA moves that the Commission take official notice of 31 "Financial and Operating Statements" spanning the period AP1, PFY 1996 - AP5, PFY 1998, and the 1997 Annual Report of the United States Postal Service.

Respectfully submitted,

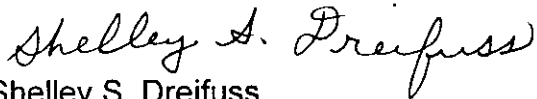
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley S. Dreifuss".

Shelley S. Dreifuss
Attorney

¹ OCA need not furnish copies of the Financial and Operating Statements nor the 1997 Annual Report since they are "reasonably available to the public" in the Commission's Docket Section. Rule 31(d).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the rules of practice.


Shelley S. Dreifuss
Attorney

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001
March 12, 1998